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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 5, 1990

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist *HS*

RE: Site Inspection, Continental Lime, Incorporated, Cricket Quarry, M/027/006, Millard County, Utah

Tony Gallegos and I performed a site inspection on May 2, 1990, at the Cricket Quarry. We met on the site, with Mr. Russ Dobson, General Manager of the Cricket Quarry and Mill, Continental Lime. This inspection was conducted to evaluate new developments at the mine site and also to discuss the plan expansion amendment and new reclamation surety with the new mine operator. In the fall of 1988, the Division contacted the operator about amending the mining and reclamation plan and submitting a new surety to cover the new developments at the mine site. Since then, the operator has been rather delinquent in submitting requested information, including the new surety the Division has asked for. The original surety was around \$30,000, the new surety will be closer to \$170,000.

The Division sent a letter to the operator last fall, 1989, asking the operator to address certain outstanding questions having to do with the mining and reclamation plan. Also, a reclamation estimate and new surety was sent to the operator at that time. The operator has not replied to that letter, at this point in time. We spoke to Mr. Russ Dobson about renewing the surety. He indicated to us that a letter had been formulated by himself and sent out to the Division. Mr. Dobson gave us a copy of the letter which is dated March 8, 1990. Mr. Dobson indicated that this letter was sent first, to his corporate bosses in Vancouver, Canada for approval of the surety and the language in the letter. He explained that this is probably why it has not reached the Division at this time. We have a copy of that draft letter, which is now in the file. However, since it has not been approved by the corporate managers, it can only be considered a draft letter at this time.

Part of the new developments in the mining and reclamation plan was to establish revegetation test plots at this site. These revegetation test plots were to have been established onsite, with the advise of the BLM and this Division. Unfortunately, the test plots have been established without prior consultation of this staff. The operator was sent a letter earlier, explaining how we would like to see these test plots developed, and



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he has, to some degree, followed the advise in that letter. The test plots probably will suffice to show what will revegetate on the site. However, I plan to ask the operator to use a little bit different seedmix and to do some things differently with these test plots this year to give us a better idea of what plants might grow on the site.

The operator has established two test plots, side by side, on each of three different sites on the overall mine site and mill site. One set of plots is located just off the mill site on mill waste fines. Another set is located on the 3/8 minus waste dump, at the mine site itself. The third set of test plots is located on coarser waste material at the mine site. The operator has used, in one test plot, just waste material for planting and a barley based mulch and seedmix. In the other test plot, the operator used peat moss as a soil amendment. Apparently it is used for growing mushrooms in Fillmore, Utah. The peat moss is applied to a depth of 4 inches above the limestone waste material, then broadcast seeded, then barley mulched. At the time of the inspection, not much growth was apparent on these plots, however, most growth was due to seeds from the barley mulch. Some small seedlings of wheatgrass could be seen coming up too. The plots without the peat moss appeared to be vegetating better than the plots with the peat moss. The seed was applied by broadcast method and scarified slightly with a rake. Being that the site is extremely windblown, a lot of seed was apparently lost because of high winds in the area. The operator used a seedmix consisting mostly of grass species, some shrubs, no forbs. I intend to ask the operator to incorporate some other grass species, some forbs and some other types of shrubs within the seedmix.

The operator took us on a brief tour of the mine site itself. We wanted to get a closer look at the highwalls. We were particularly interested in the stability of these highwalls. The Division is considering granting a variance to the 45° highwall requirement for the Cricket Quarry. The operator plans to leave a series of benches after mining that will have vertical highwalls about 20-40 feet in height. These walls will be benched with 20 foot wide benches, and will be about 20 feet in height. The benches will have about 6 to 12 inches of waste material spread on them for planting purposes at final reclamation. One point along the highwall, looked like it has been particularly weakened and was sluffing. We mentioned to the operator that places such as this will have to be stabilized at final reclamation by pulling the slope down to a less steep angle.

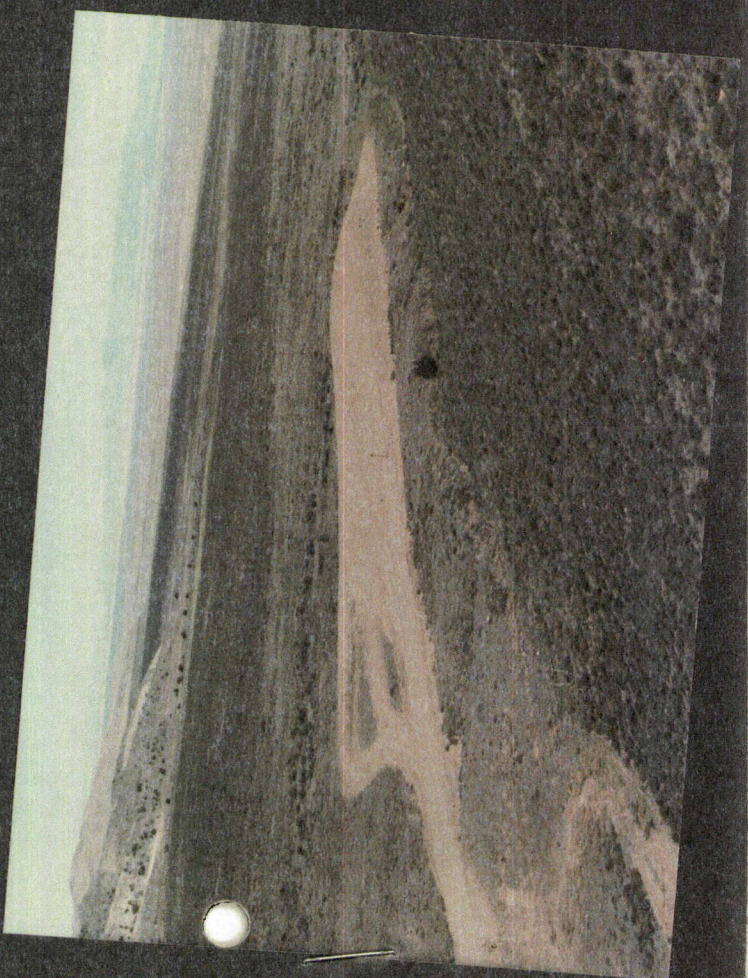
jb  
cc: Wayne Hedberg  
Tony Gallegos  
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CONTINENTAL LINE  
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